

CLAIMS

Sub 1. A method for displaying real-time status of product availability comprising:
automatically querying a database at regular time intervals for a date when each product will be ready for shipment for a plurality of products, and if the date does not exist, skipping that product, otherwise;
for each product, counting a number of days between a current date and the date when the product will be ready for shipment to create a number of days before the product is available; and
displaying when the product is available for shipment.

Sub 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of querying also includes querying the database for a number of orders, a product category for each order, and sales revenue for each order, and further comprises:
adding the number of orders for each product category to create a sum of the number of orders for each product category; and
adding the sales revenue from each order in each product category to create a sum of the total revenue for each product category;
displaying the sum of the number of orders for each product category;
and
displaying the sum of the total revenue for each product category.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the displaying step includes displaying the number of days until the product is available for shipment.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the plurality of display categories includes:

displaying a second user-defined message if the number of days before the product is available is less than a user-defined number.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of automatically querying is performed in real-time.

Sub
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periodically query the database to obtain the date for the products while ignoring those products that do not have a valid shipment date; count a number of days for each product between a current date and the date when the product will be ready for shipment to create a number of days before the product is available; and display the number of days before the product is available.

9. The computer-readable medium of claim 8 where the computer program further causes the one or more computers to: apply the number of days before the product is available to a calendar starting from the current date; and display a date when the product will be available.

10. The computer-readable medium of claim 8 where the computer program further causes the one or more computers to: populate the database with data to include number of orders, a product category for each order, and sales revenue for each order; add the number of orders for each product category together to create a sum of the number of orders for each product category; add the sales revenue for the number of orders in each product category together to create a sum of the total revenue for each product category; and display the sum of the number of orders for each product category and the sum of the total revenue for each product category.

11. The computer-readable medium of claim 8 where the computer program further causes the one or more computers to:
create a plurality of categories for display, wherein determination of a category depends on the number of days before the product is available.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the plurality of categories includes a first category for orders including orders where the number of days before the product is available is greater than a user-defined number, and a second category for orders including orders where the number of days before the product is available is less than a user-defined number, wherein the computer program further causes the one or more computers to:

display a first user-defined message for each order in the first category;
and
display a second user-defined message for each order in the second category.

13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12 wherein the first user-defined message is "call for availability" and the second user-defined message is "ready for immediate shipment."

14. The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the plurality of categories includes a category for orders where the number of days before the product is available is within a user-defined range of values, wherein the computer program further causes the one or more computers to:

15.

16.

maintain a database containing at least a date when each product will

periodically obtain from the database the date when each product will

count a number of days between today and the date each product will

display the corresponding date when the product will be available.

17.

apply the number of days before the product is available to a calendar

display the number of days before the product is available.

18.

by a first user
is greater than
by a second
is less than
computer data
lly obtains
computer data
n once a min
computer data
on is request

[illegible]

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as

21. The computer data signal of claim 16 wherein the signal obtains data every time information is requested.